

Message Text

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17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4955
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR TU LE
SUBJECT: TURKISH ATTITUDE TOWARD LEBANON

1. TURKISH PRESS SEPT 18 REPORTED THAT DEPPRIMIN ERBAKAN, LEADER OF THE PRO-ISLAMIC NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY, HAD TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT TOLERATE THE PARTITION OF LEBANON, AND THAT A SHIPMENT OF MEDICINE WOULD BE SENT TO THE LEBANESE MOSLEM COMMUNITY SOON. ERBAKAN REPORTEDLY MADE THESE STATEMENTS AFTER RECEIVING A DELEGATION OF LEBANESE MOSLEMS.

2. HOWEVER, PRIMIN DEMIREL, IN A PREPARED STATEMENT WHICH HE READ AT HIS SEPT 18 PRESS CONF (OTHER PORTIONS OF WHICH ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY), SAID IN PART: "TURKEY IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON HAS REACHED ITS PRESENT PROPORTIONS...TURKEY SINCERELY WISHES THESE PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE LEBANESE PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR WISHES AND TRADITIONS AND THE HIGH INTERESTS OF LEBANON, SAFEGUARDING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SECURITY, AND INDEPENDENCE OF THAT COUNTRY. TURKEY SUPPORTS ALL EFFORTS EXERTED IN THIS DIRECTION. THE TURKISH GOVT HAS EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS ABOUT IT IN STATEMENTS ISSUED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VARIOUS OCCASIONS AND DURING CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES

CONCERNED."

3. COMMENT: ERBAKAN AND HIS SENIOR FOLLOWERS IN THE GOVT HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS IN RECENT MONTHS WHICH REPRESENT THEIR PARTY'S POLICY RATHER THAN GOVT POLICY. GIVEN THE STATEMENT OF GOVT POLICY BY DEMIREL, ERBAKAN APPEARS AGAIN TO HAVE BEEN SPEAKING AGAIN FOR HIS PARTY, TAKING A MORE EXTREME STANCE THAN THE REST OF THE COALITION IS WILLING TO ADOPT.
FRANCIS

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